



**Governor's Advisory Council
To The Division of Developmental Disabilities**

July 20, 2017

1056 Governor's Avenue
Dover, DE

Council Members:

Terri Hancharick, Chair
Gail Womble, via Conference Call
Angie Sipple
Thomas Rust
Tim Brooks
Susan Pereira

Staff Members:

Jill Rogers
Marie Nonnenmacher
Jim Dickinson
Lynda Lord
Terry Macy
Rick Kosmalski
Nicole Lawless, Minutes
Marissa Catalon

Guests Present:

Laura Waterland, CLASI/DLP
Terry Olsen, ARC
Libby Cusack, Parent
Pat Maichle, DDC

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the June meeting were reviewed and approved.

Old & New Business

FY 2018 Budget

Rick led the budget presentation beginning with a review of a FY17-FY18 budget comparison document. Budget discussion also included explanations of ASF funding and the removal of surplus funds from personnel costs. DDDS assured council members that the cost changes have no impact on services.

Lifespan Waiver

Terry provided an update on the Lifespan Waiver progress. DDDS is currently building their capacity to manage the waiver and oversee Columbus. Columbus began on July 5th and has recently hired a Director to oversee Community Navigators. The Columbus team includes two senior members working in supervisory roles in addition to two DDDS employees supervising under the direction of Stacy Watkins. Now fully staffed, families should begin to hear from Navigators in the next couple of weeks. A member noted their Community Navigator has already contacted them. The member suggested DDDS pay attention to those who are at risk during transition to prevent families from ending up with a new person. Members also requested that Case Managers make contact with families at least once a month similar to Community Navigators. DDDS is actively working on enrolling new families and providers.

Terry explained that Respite and Personal Care would be subject to self-direction, removing DDDS from that process.

Community Rule Transition Plan

Jim presented the final version of the DDDS Residential Agreement. He explained that during this process DDDS reviewed places that already had waivers and worked with a CMS contracted provider. The draft of the agreement included internal reviews as well as reviews by two Attorney Generals to ensure no major conflicts with standing tenant agreement laws. DDDS is open to receiving questions that arise from the agreement to present to the Attorney General for resolution. The division currently has plans to revisit the agreement three months from now to see what issues need to be addressed.

During the presentation, members asked why residential agreements are with providers. Jim explained that when an individual enters an agreement with a property owner the residential agreement is not needed. The purpose of the residential agreement is to ensure the tenant receives the same rights in group homes, etc. Providers are responsible for leasing property from locations that will provide reasonable services. The division has language with providers that requires them to comply with the law. DDDS is currently planning to roll out information in a structured and responsible manner close to October 2017.

Rep-Payee Process

Jill provided an update to council members on the rep-payee process. DDDS currently serves an estimated 1,200 people. The division believes this is not a function that should include DDDS. There are currently options available for rep-payee support and oversight by DDDS. The division has developed the possibility of connecting with the Office of Public Guarding to transfer rep-payee functions from DDDS to OPG. Jill explained that a thoughtful process would need to be developed for the transfer and identified that providers are not an option for providing these services. The division is working on expanding staff for this initiative. DDDS will provide the council with regular updates.

Census Report

A census report was not available for this meeting. The report will be available for the next meeting and follow past formats with some new updates.

Retreat

DDDS discussed proposed agenda items for the retreat and took suggestions from members. Agenda items and suggestions included:

- Data Report
- Lifespan Waiver
- Statewide Training Strategy
- Budget
- Communication Strategy
 - Members discussed sharing Community Navigator job descriptions with families and the importance of easy to access information for families on the website.
- Strategic Projects
- 2017 Legislative Items

Staffing Update

- The DDDS Deputy Director will retire next week. The division has received approval to fill the position. DDDS is currently evaluating what is important for this position.
- Chief of Administration announcement will take place on Friday July 21, 2017.

Future Meetings

FY 2018 Governor's Advisory Council meetings will occur the third Thursday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

October 19, 2017	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
November 16, 2017	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
January 18, 2018	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
February 15, 2018	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
March 15, 2018	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
April 19, 2018	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
May 17, 2018	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
June 21, 2018	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.